

Applicants : Chad D. Quist, Francis O'Brien and Niall R. Lynam
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Remarks:

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 10, 2006. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and allowance of the pending claims.

Claims 1-3, 7, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23-28, 30, 31, 41, 42, 44-58, 68, 71, 73-79, 81, 82, 84 and 85 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 26-28, 31, 44, 46-48, 52-56, 73, 74 and 77-79 have been amended as set forth above. Claims 4-6, 8-15, 18, 19, 22, 29, 32-40, 43, 59-67, 69, 70, 72, 80, 83, 86 and 87 were previously canceled without prejudice. The specification has been amended to update several incorporated patent applications that have now issued as U.S. patents. The amendments are fully supported in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, 21, 23-28, 41 and 73-79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Azam et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,566,224, in view of Martinelli et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,943,044, Bauer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,262,831, and Kabada et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,088,649. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azam et al. in view of Martinelli et al., Bauer et al., Kabada et al., and Blank et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,576,687. Claim 68 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azam in view of Martinelli et al., Bauer et al., Kabada et al., and Friend et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,497,368. Claims 15, 16, 29-31, 42, 44-48, 51-55, 58, 71, 81, 82, 84 and 85 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azam in view of Martinelli et al., Bauer et al., Kabada et al., and Takekawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,091,376. Claims 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azam in view of Martinelli et al., Bauer et al., Kabada et al., Takekawa and Blank et al. Claims 56 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

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§103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam in view of Martinelli et al., Baucer et al., Kabada et al., Takekawa, and Schofield et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,786,772.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for the reasons set forth below. Without acquiescing in the rejection of the claims, Applicants have amended the independent claims as set forth above to clarify the claimed invention, and some of the dependent claims have been amended to correspond to the language of the clarified independent claims. The amendments to the independent claims were suggested by Examiner Lao via correspondence on August 7, 2006. For example, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to clarify that display information desired by a user is generated in response to said touch sensitive elements being actuated by the user and is displayed above said display elements.

Applicants have also amended independent claim 28 to clarify, for example, that first display information is generated in response to the first touch sensitive element of the first user actuatable selector element being actuated by a user and is displayed above the first display element. Second display information is generated in response to the second touch sensitive element of the second user actuatable selector element being actuated by a user and is displayed above the second display element.

Applicants have also amended independent claim 53 to clarify that, for example, a first user actuatable selector element activates one display element to display a first display information associated with the first user actuatable selector element. The first display information is generated in response to actuation of the first user actuatable selector element and is displayed above the display element. The second user actuatable selector element activates another display element to display a second display information associated with the second user actuatable selector element. The second display information is generated in response to the second actuation of a user actuatable selector element and is displayed above the other display element.

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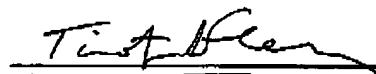
Applicants respectfully submit that ul Azam et al., either alone or in combination with Martinelli et al. and/or Bauer et al. and/or Kabada et al. and/or any other prior art of record, does not disclose, teach or suggest or render obvious the mirror system of the present invention, particularly as set forth in independent claims 1, 28 and 53 and in the claims depending therefrom. Furthermore, the undersigned attorney has discussed the above claim amendments with Examiner Lao, and during such discussions it was agreed that these amendments overcome the rejection and should place the claims in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that ul Azam et al., Martinelli et al., Bauer et al. and/or Kabada et al., either alone or in combination with one another or with any other prior art of record, do not disclose, teach, suggest or render obvious the interactive vehicular mirror system of the present invention, particularly as set forth in independent claims 1, 28 and 53 and in the claims depending therefrom. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 7, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23-28, 30, 31, 41, 42, 44-58, 68, 71, 73-79, 81, 82, 84 and 85 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5500.

Respectfully Submitted,
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